

When Mr. Pablo Pereira, our Minister of the Economy and Development, returned from the Meeting of Ministers in Denver, he reported to me in detail on two events of special importance to our country that took place in that city.

(1) The signing of Bilateral Investment Treaty between the United States and Nicaragua.

(2) A working session with you where we responded to your initiative of holding a Forum on Trade and Investment at the Central American level with an invitation to stage such a Forum in Managua.

I now have the pleasure of reiterating that invitation to you and to tell you that in Nicaragua we will welcome you, your assistants and the important business people that accompany you, with open arms.

From the outset, we believe this event will be important, not only to give the Bilateral Investment Treaty its own dimension, but also to provide a magnificent opportunity to examine, within a Central American context, concrete perspectives on trade and investment between our subregion and the United States.

In this same vein of ideas, allow me to suggest the creation of a U.S.-Central America Business Development Council, a body that will promote business ties, providing the private sector with the major role befitting it in our societies.

Mr. Brown, distinguished guests, Central America is a region that has abandoned war and violence and has initiated the irreversible consolidation of its democracies. I am proud to point out that, toward the end of next year, we will hold in Nicaragua, the fairest, most free elections in our history. These elections will mean a political transition without interruption, guaranteeing our democracy. Pacification, reconciliation and development have been the central themes of my Government, under the difficult circumstances I have had to govern.

In my country we put an end to the hyperinflation of the 1980s, launched a highly successful process of privatization, reduced the foreign debt and made considerable progress in the solution of the property issue inherited by my Government. We also began an intensive process of export diversification and, in general, have laid the groundwork for a better transformation of production with economic and social equity. Nicaragua is a stable country, currently open to foreign investment and willing to gradually assume the responsibilities imposed by economic globalization and international competition. Our convictions, our principles, as well as our laws grant complete security and protection to foreign investment.

I invite the American business people to discover Nicaragua. Here, among us, we have examples of business people and businesses that know that in our country in particular, and Central America in general, significant opportunities for trade and investment are taking place.

Come to Nicaragua. Come to Central America, we are waiting for you.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY A. FOSTER

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Mr. Larry A. Foster of Forest Park, who recently passed away. His passing at the young age of 54 is a loss that is felt, not by just his family

and friends, but by the community he lived in, loved, and served over the years. He will be greatly missed.

Larry was born in Atlanta but moved to Clayton County at an early age. He was a star athlete at Forest Park High School where he played lineman, participated in two State championship football games and was named all-State lineman of the year. His talent on the playing field, combined with his academic performance in the classroom, won him a scholarship to Auburn University. He later transferred to Virginia Military Institute where he also played football.

He served his country with honor and distinction in the U.S. marine Corps. Larry spent 13 months of his 3½ years in the Corps in Vietnam. After leaving the Marines as a lieutenant, he returned to his beloved Georgia where he taught school and coached football at Hapeville and attended night law school at Emory University.

When the night school program ended, Larry faced a difficult choice. The choice he made shows us a great deal about this man's character and determination. He left his secure job of teaching and the coaching he loved, to enter Emory as a full-time law student.

After graduation, he started a legal career that grew and flourished through the years. He joined a well-known private law firm in Clayton County, but he also found the time to serve his community and State in so many other ways. From 1973 to 1989, he served as the Clayton County School Board attorney and from 1989 to 1993 he was the attorney for Clayton County. At various times during his career he also served as city attorney for both Riverdale and Morrow.

His love of education led him to the Georgia Board of Education where he served for 14 years. During his time on the board, Larry played a major role in shaping the State's "no-pass, no play" rule, which requires student athletes to maintain their grades to be eligible to play competitive sports. He was a champion of local school superintendents and principals, pushing for better training programs and better benefits to keep school leaders from leaving the State.

Service to the community went beyond his legal expertise, however. He was a member and past president of the Southlake Kiwanis Club, the past president of the Clayton County Bar Association, and past district director in the Boy Scouts where he was active for many years.

Larry will be greatly missed. He will be missed by his wife, Mary Jo, to whom he had been married since 1968, and by his two children, Rachel Foster and Larry Allen Foster, Jr. He will be missed by his mother, Frances Foster, and his three brothers, Paul, Donald, and Terry.

His loss is also a great loss to the people of Clayton County and the State of Georgia. He touched the lives of so many people—his fellow classmates and athletes in his youth, the men he served with and led in the U.S. Marine Corps, the students he taught and the football players he coached while a teacher at Hapeville school, his fellow attorneys, teachers, principals, superintendents, youngsters in the Boy Scouts.

The list goes on and on. Larry will be missed. His all-too-short life exhibited the grit, the determination, professionalism and service

for which we all should strive in our lives. He was more than just a constituent, he was a friend. I am proud to have known Larry Foster, and I will miss him.

TRIBUTE OF FRANCIS JOSLIN

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Francis Joslin of Washington State.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, when we pause to remember the military veterans of our Nation who have fought to preserve our freedom, Francis Joslin should be in our thoughts. During world War II, Mr. Joslin exhibited the kind of courage and perseverance that most Americans of the postwar generations can scarcely imagine.

As an 18-year-old Army recruit in the spring of 1941, Mr. Joslin was sent to the Philippines, where he was assigned to a coastal artillery battery. When World War II began on December 7, he was transferred to the 31st Infantry. He was among the American defenders of the Philippines who fought the Japanese invasion force from Luzon to Bataan.

When Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, he and a small group of soldiers fled, swimming to the island of Corregidor, where he fought on until it too was surrendered on May 6. He was taken prisoner.

By escaping to Corregidor, Mr. Joslin had avoided what was later named the Bataan Death March. But with the fall of Corregidor, he was to begin 3 years of imprisonment, slave labor, and torture that most of us probably would not have endured. At the time of his capture, he was 6-foot-2 and weighed 190 pounds. At his liberation on August 15, 1945, he weighed but 105 pounds.

At first imprisoned in Manila, Mr. Joslin, suffered from malaria for which he was given no medicine, was beaten and was not given enough food to sustain his health. He witnessed horrid acts of torture against fellow prisoners who had escaped to try to find food.

Then that winter he and 1,500 of his fellow soldiers were moved to frigid northern China, where they were used as forced labor at a tannery and in lead mines. Survival again became a daily challenge. During that winter of 1943, they supplemented their inadequate rations by eating grass and capturing wild dogs.

In the summer of 1944, suffering from fatigue and malnutrition, Mr. Joslin lost consciousness in the mine. When he awakened outside the mine 3 days later, his guards believed he had tried to escape. He was taken back to the mine and forced to stand naked for 2 days without food or water. That was followed by 2 days in solitary confinement, again without food or water.

Shipped to Japan, he spent 10 days in solitary confinement without food or water and was repeatedly beaten. At the end of this chapter of his ordeal he was tried by a Japanese court for escape and sabotage and sentenced to life in solitary confinement.

Mr. Joslin spent the last year of his confinement in an unheated, windowless cell in Japan. The cell was 5 feet wide and 10 feet long. The ceiling was 5½ feet high. A 40-watt